

Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes March 16, 2022

Members Present: Ron Dwyer, Lee Nordmeyer, Karl Vohs, Cori Weems and Chair Sauer

Members Absent: Rob Kuhlman, Sam Temple

Staff Present: Peter Waldock, Kari Casper

1. Call to Order

Chair Sauer called the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Chair Sauer introduced Kuhlman and thanked Nordmeyer for returning.

2. Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2022 meeting.

No minutes were published and so they tabled the minutes of February 16, 2022 for the next meeting.

3. General Heritage Preservation Items

- A. Citizen Comment Period – None.
- B. Annual Review of Commission By-Laws

The Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) is asked to annually review and update or approve the Commission By-Laws. Last year the HPC updated the By-Laws to revise the meeting schedule to meet on the third Wednesday of each month instead of Mondays. The staff does not know of any needed revisions this year. The Commissioners are asked to review the current By-Laws and determine if updates are needed.

Vohs discussed the 72-hour requirement for the “Emergency Meeting”. Vohs inquired about adding items to the HPC agenda. Waldock mentioned that the commission can contact staff prior to the meeting for additional items to be added to meeting agenda. The agenda can be amended by a vote of the commission at meeting time if necessary. Vohs was concerned about not being able to discuss matters amongst the board members at times other than during the regular public meeting times. Waldock suggested that he invite the City Attorney, Scott Riggs to the next meeting. Chair Sauer also mentioned that there was no budgeting authority.

Commissioner Vohs brought a motion to approve the HPC By-Laws for 2022, seconded by Commissioner Weems with the revision to Item No. 5 to keep “Items for Discussion” on the agenda and to bring the revised By-Laws to the next meeting for review and approval.

Motion carried on a 5/0 vote.

- C. MnDOT Request to Participate in Section 106 Review Process regarding Sakatah Singing Hills Trail Improvement Plans

The Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) has been invited by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to participate in consultation on trail improvements proposed for the Sakatah Singing Hills State Trail through Faribault. MnDOT is proposing accessibility improvements to the trail for compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The project will include trail sections in LeSeur and Rice Counties. A portion of the trail passes through the City of Faribault. Federal funding requirements trigger historic preservation review from local jurisdictions that the trail serves.

After Waldock's presentation, Chair Sauer opened the matter up for discussion and noted that this trail may be by Alexander Faribault's original trading post site. Waldock mentioned that he would try to get a hold of Susan Garwood at the RCHS to see if she had information. The parts of the trail that are involved in are 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 which was found on page 8 of the presentation.

No action taken at this time.

4. Design Reviews - None.

5. Items of Discussion

A. Continued Discussion of Demolition by Neglect

The Commissioners have asked to revisit the topic of "Demolition by Neglect" for continued discussion. The Commission members have listed this topic as a priority concern for Heritage Preservation in the City. As noted during a recent review of Johnston Hall, Farmers Seed and Nursery and the original Woolen Mills building, the cost of necessary restoration of historic buildings can greatly exceed the building's value, making it financially unfeasible to restore or even repair to the extent needed to preserve them.

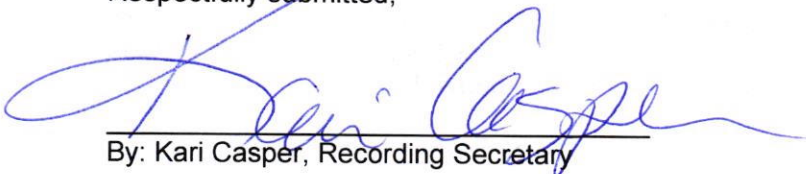
Vohs talked about making a recommendation for a yearly award to building owners. Dwyer talked about getting an inventory of the properties to see what could be considered. A short discussion took place about possibly offering a program to assist property owners with an analysis of their buildings to maintain the structural integrity such as a Preventative Maintenance Inspection by the appropriate parties. Staff will research other communities like Stillwater and prepare and outline. Commissioner Vohs wanted to made known in the notes that

No action taken at this time.

6. Adjourn

A motion was brought by Commissioner Vohs and seconded by Commissioner Nordmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kari Casper", is written over a horizontal line.

By: Kari Casper, Recording Secretary